

WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE AND FOUND WANTING.

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Belshazzar was a king of Babylon in the year 538 B. C., during this time he prepared a great feast for a thousand of his lords and they drank wine out of golden vessels which was a misuse of these sacred vessels, and they worshiped and praised and honored their idols, made of brass, wood, iron and of stone; and they were enjoying themselves in the highest degree of enjoyment, and were surrounded with all the earthly pleasures necessary to satisfy their earthly desires, and as they were in their highest element of enjoyment, in the night as they reveled in the royal palace hall they were "seized with consternation. 'Twas the hand of God on the wall." There was no one in his realm that could interpret the writing on the wall. Belshazzar learned of Daniel being able to interpret dreams and writings, through the queen who knew of Daniel, who was there in prison, taken as a captive at Jerusalem during the Babylonish captivity.

And Daniel was then brought into the hall, and the king offered him very costly gifts if he would interpret the writing on the wall. But Daniel refused the gifts but interpreted the writing and "rebuked the haughty monarch for his mighty deeds of wrong."

He told Belshazzar that his kingdom would be divided and given to the Medes and Persians, and he also told him that he was weighed in the balance and found wanting, which gives rise to our text: "Thou art weighed in the balance and art found wanting."

Let us first notice the balances in which men weigh themselves. We have a great many Belshazzars to-day, and a thousand other lords who are doing the very same thing and engaged in the same revelry and worship earthly things, such as riches, honor, festivals, dances and associate with all classes of people, and never take time to think about God and the salvation of their immortal souls. They are engaged in stores and saloons and other places of business and pleasure on Sunday as well as any other day.

And such people very often are upheld in their business and pleasure by people who profess Christianity, which is a big inducement for them to go on in their wickedness. These Christians are the kind the devil likes to see in the church. And I notice such people very often are escorted to the best pew in the church. I have no doubt but that they see the hand of God writing their destiny on the wall, which causes them to tremble and all they want is to believe the interpretation of the

scripture and the hand-writing on the wall, that they may not be destroyed like Belshazzar, but be sweetly saved.

To be a lord and a prince over some kingdom or wealthy property is the desire that takes the lead in the minds of some people to-day above every other desire, and its always big I, and little you, in every case, unless they happen to be running for some political office, then its big I and big you, until after the election is over, then the poor man is a small object. You take a man when he is drunk, and in his own opinion, he claims to be stronger, more active, and richer than anybody else. A good comparison to a man who is conceit. In his own opinion, he is better than the people that surround him in life.

Some people look as big as a house in their own opinion, but very small in the eyes of the people, and much less in the eyes of Almighty God. This is one of the balances in which men weigh themselves.

Then again they weigh themselves in the scales of comparison, which oftentimes causes a great calamity in the pocket-book. The scale of comparison is one of the greatest thieves that has ever robbed a pocket-book. For instance, here is Mrs. A, she owns a large property, and has lots of money, wears a nice silk dress and sports a gold watch and stands very high in society. Over here is Mrs. B, she has always been in the habit of wearing good clothes, but she has married a poor man, one who makes poor wages, and has a hard way of getting along, and therefore, can't afford to dress Mrs. B just like she wants to be. And before she will economize, she runs in debt for clothes and fineries, just in order to keep up with Mrs. A. Therefore, she runs her man in debt, where he cannot get out, and then he is blamed for not paying his honest debts, and very often leads to the ruin of the man. Too often the poor class try to keep up with the fashions of the rich, and it empties their pocket-books every time. People as a rule, compare themselves with others, but they should be careful how they do it.

I once heard of a doctor who had completed his course and entered a very large town for the purpose of practicing medicine, but could not get customers on account of carrying his head a little too high, and he did not want to be beaten out by the other doctors. So he took his grip and started down Main street for quite a number of squares, then he went across to the next street and came up and crossed over to his office, in order to make people believe he was calling on some patients, wanting to be compared with other doctors of the town and to win cus-

tom, and become popular in the eyes of the people. So you see men will weigh themselves in the scales of comparison, no matter what it costs, and oftentimes will sacrifice almost every good principle of character, in order to be highly esteemed by the people. The only comparison man should make is comparing his littleness with God's greatness and see how little he is, and then there would be a greater amount of Christianity in the world. People should be careful what scales they weigh themselves on, and be sure that the Bible is the weight and that they balance it.

For fear some day, the Almighty hand of God will weigh them and write the sentence on the wall: "Thou art weighed in the balance and art found wanting."

Balance in which God weighs a man.

When a man steps on the balance to be weighed by God, the first weight he is to balance is the Bible. And if we want to weigh well in the balance we must live in accordance with his book. We must obey the Bible. The Bible, to my mind, is a Christian chain that reaches in a spiritual sense, from earth to heaven, and the disconnection of one link will sever the chain and we will fall short of heaven, therefore let us get the whole chain, and not a link here and there through the chain and make a chain of our own, because it takes the whole chain to reach to heaven. And if we have the whole chain we are sure to weigh well in the balance.

The next weight is conscience. Something I think had a great effect upon Belshazzar, when he saw the hand-writing on the wall. So when a person does something that is wrong their conscience, as a general rule, will smite them and will have a great effect on the day of judgment. A guilty conscience will stand no show on the day of reckoning.

When again, a person will be weighed in a perfect moral standard, that is his perfection and purity will be tested in every way, in an impartial standard. There will be no partiality in the weight and standard of Almighty God, and every man will receive a just reward, and his reward will be in accordance with the deeds done in the body. If a man has a guilty conscience, it will stand against him; if he does not live according to the scriptures, it will stand against him; and he will, likely, be weighed in the balance and found wanting. God forbid. The balance of Almighty God can be applied to the moralist, the formalists, to the worldly Christian, and to the indolent. Therefore, a man must have more than morality and form; he must be spiritual as well. And he must give up the vain things of this world, and be up and doing the will of God, and be not idle.

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